

Vol. 2, Issue 34



407th Air Expeditionary Group, Tallil Air Base, Iraq

Dec. 31, 2004

# Blue to Green



The Air Force's 407th EMDG cases its flag as the Army's 86th CHS takes over to support Tallil Air Base's important medical mission

— Page 3

Around Tallil Air Base

This year was a very eventful one here at Tallil Air Base. We've seen three full rotations of people pass through, and we're in the process of bringing in another new group of Airmen to continue the important mission of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group.

The past year was one for enormous change here at

Tallil. Last January, we moved the flag of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing north to Balad and said goodbye to A-10 and Predator aircraft assigned here.

However, we've also expanded the base's mission by hosting Marine EA-6 aircraft and Army Blackhawks on our flightline. In the

past month, we've worked hard to bed down a group of C-130 aircraft and seen senior leaders from around the world grace our flightline.

This week we'll see another series of changes as the Soldiers of the 86th Combat Support Hospital take over for our 407th Expeditionary Medical Group.

As we enter 2005, we're faced with a supporting a variety of new missions as we seek to support the Iraqi people

in building a nation free from the influence of terrorists and criminals.

Each and every member of the 407th AEG has an important role to play as we enter a new calendar year. From the Security Forces who guard and protect our people and resources to the Airmen working on the flightline as part of our flying mission,

to the personnelists who manage the constant requirements of supporting our deployed troops, your effort is what makes this group the best in the AOR.

Everyone assigned to the 407th AEG should be mindful of our mission, and keep safety first as we go about our duties.

For the Airmen of AEF 1 and 2, you're coming to the close of a successful tour --

but this isn't the time to rest on your laurels. The next few weeks are important for setting up a solid foundation for our new Airmen deployed here as part of AEF 3 and 4.

If you're getting ready to depart, ensure that you're teaching your replacement the right way of accomplishing the task at hand. Cutting corners and ignoring established rules is a recipe for failure -- and often results in needless injuries to our people. Think safety, be safe.

What is your New Year's resolution?

# Tallil Talks ...



Master Sgt.
Raymond Rogers,
407th ECES:
"Getting home."



Senior Airman
Robert Vaughn
439th POL:
"Quit smoking and
continue to go to the gym
at home as much as I do
when I'm deployed."



Airman 1st Class
Hazen Noble,
407th ESFS:
"I've been too busy, I
haven't had time to think
of any."



Master Sgt.
Barry Kennett,
407th EOSS:
"My life is too busy for new years resolutions. I'll be PCS'ing, getting married and retiring when I return."



#### **EDITORIAL STAFF**

Col. Wade Johnson Commander, 407th AEG

Master Sgt. Don Perrien Editor/Chief, Public Affairs This funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the TALLIL TIMES are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The TALLIL TIMES accepts stories, photographs and commentaries, which maybe submitted to the PA staff located in the group headquarters building or can be sent directly to the newspaper at tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil

Deadline for publication is 2 p.m. Thursday before the week of publication. For more information, call 445-2002, or e-mail the staff.



### IN BRIEF-

#### **Promotion Ceremony**

The Tallil Air Base Monthly Promotion Ceremony is scheduled for today at 9 a.m. in the Big Top. Everyone is invited to congratulate Tallil's newest promotees.

#### **Check your W-2 for taxes**

Before filing your 2004 tax return, make sure all taxable entitlements have posted to your pay record for 2004.

If you were in a Combat Zone during December or prior months, then your income is tax exempt for that month. If you entered the CZ at the end of December then your pay record or Leave & Earnings Statement will not be updated for December. The Finance Office is trying to update entitlements by the cutoff in January. Any refund of December taxes withheld would need to be filed on your 2004 tax Federal return.

It is important to check your W-2 closely and make sure it is correct before filing taxes. W-2s are scheduled to be available for view on myPay on 14 Jan 04.

Visit the myPay website at: <a href="https://mypay.dfas.mil/">https://mypay.dfas.mil/</a>.

#### No Baby Wipes in Latrines

The 407th Civil Engineering Squadron's Utilities Shop is requesting that people who use the latrines here in Tallil refrain from using baby wipes in the facilities. Flushing the material down the drains causes severe problems with the wastewater distribution system and lagoons. Please remember to toss used baby wipes into a trash container after use.

#### 407 AEG Coins For Sale

The 407th Top Three has a limited number of 407th Air Expeditionary Group coins for sale. Each piece features full-color artwork representing the Air Force unit deployed here to Tallil, and has beveled edges and enamel coating. The coins are available from any Top Three officer for only \$5 each while supplies last.

## EMDG turns mission over to 86 CSH

The Air Force's 407th Expeditionary Medical Group deactivated Thursday and turned its medical support mission here at Tallil over to Soldiers assigned to the Army's 86th Combat Support Hospital.

The assumption of authority for Tallil's medical mission marks the end of an era here at Tallil Air Base. In the past 20 months, Airmen assigned to the medical group here have seen more than 26,000 patients while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The departing Airmen of the 407th EMDG left a lasting legacy for future medical operations here at Tallil.

"I believe we have done a superb job in treating people day-in and day-out," Col. Kerry Dexter, 407th EMDG commander said. "However, I believe we have done an exceptional job in treating those who have come to us with catastrophic injuries. We have literally grabbed people from the jaws of death.

"I am exceptionally proud of the people of the 407 EMDG. I have never worked with a group of people who have had a higher degree of professionalism," he said. "Their attitudes have been outstanding and their abilities to care for the sick, wounded, and injured have been unparalleled.

"This group is definitely going out on a

high note," Colonel Dexter said. "They have left a very high bar for subsequent units to reach in providing health care."

According to the unit's commander, the soldiers assigned to the 86th CSH are more than ready to pick up the medical support mission here at Tallil.

"We are very pleased to accept responsibility for all level III hospital care for the Southern Iraq AOR," said Army Col. Casper P. Jones III, 86th CHS commander. "The medical and support staff of Task Force South, 86th CSH are thankful to the 407th EMDG team for their kind reception and thorough transition.

The Solders assigned to the 86th CHS are from Fort Campbell, Ky. Known as The Eagle Medics, they are scheduled for a one year tour here.

According to Army Maj. David Leeser, officer in charge of Task Force South, 86th Combat Support Hospital, the unit will provide medical care in the current EMEDS facility until the new Medical Treatment Facility is ready for the Medical Task Force.

This is the second time the 86th CSH has operated on Tallil Air Base. The 86th CSH was the first Level III medical facility to set up in Iraq during the beginning phases of the liberation of Iraq in 2003.



## Christmas Present

Capt. Deborah Morton, 407th Expeditionary Medical Group hugs her son Army Spc. Clint Abbott during his visit to Tallil Christmas weekend. The Soldier's three-day visit marked the first time Captain Morton had seen her son in two years. Specialist Abbott is assigned to Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division and is on his second tour of duty in Iraq in less than a year.

# U.S. responding to tsunami catastrophe

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The United States will respond to the unprecedented international catastrophe caused by the tsunamis that engulfed nations on the Indian Ocean.

More than 20,000 people are feared dead, according to news reports, and millions are without shelter.

President Bush said in a statement issued by the White House that the United States "stands ready to offer all appropriate assistance to those nations most affected including Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Thailand, and Indonesia, as well as the other countries impacted."

Relief already is flowing to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, an island nation between India and Africa.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said U.S. embassies in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, India

and Indonesia have provided a total of \$400,000 in immediate assistance.

The United States also will provide \$4 million toward a \$6.6 million Red Cross appeal for assistance from the world community.

Powell said eight Americans are dead in the tsunamis, caused by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake off the coast of Indonesia. Tsunamis hit Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and the coast of Africa. Flood waters poured into low-lying coastal areas, drowning thousands and destroying homes and businesses.

The U.S. Pacific Command already has begun to respond. Navy P-3 Orion aircraft are flying missions over the affected areas to help in assessing the damage, especially in remote areas. "The Pacific fleet is examining what else they might be able to do to help in this situation," Powell said during a news conference at the State Department.

Defense Department officials said U.S. Pacific Command will establish a joint task force for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the region. The command is expected to deploy forces to forward operating bases in the sea region to provide authorized humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

A 21-member U.S. Agency for International Development disaster relief team is heading to the area, and the agency can draw upon assets pre-positioned in the region. Ed Fox, assistant administration of USAID, said food, shelter, water and other supplies are ready to be delivered. The main problem right now is to clear debris scattered by the floods, he said.

Powell said the effects of the disaster will be felt in the region for years, and that a quick infusion of money is needed to stabilize the situation and prevent further deaths from water-borne diseases in the near term.

## Airmen bringing tsunami-relief supplies to devastated Thailand

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — Airmen from Yokota Air Base, Japan, are among those bringing the first wave of relief for people on the coastlines of Southeast Asia and Eastern Africa. The area was devastated by a massive 9.0 magnitude earthquake and equally powerful tsunamis.

The Airmen and six C-130 Hercules aircraft are expected to deliver relief supplies including food, shelter and clothing to Thailand within the next 24 hours, officials said.

Defense Department officials said U.S. Pacific Command will establish a joint task force for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the region.

PACOM officials also said humanitarian assistance assessment teams will deploy to various locations within the region.

"The assessment team will identify requirements for temporary military-specific support to dos and humanitarian relief agencies in (the country)," an official said. "Our primary concern is to prevent the further loss of life and human suffering, and we will support the relief response to this terrible tragedy."

An assessment team includes servicemembers in the following specialties: medical treatment, civil engineering, preventive medicine, contracting, public affairs, logistics and water purification.



U.S. Air Force file photo

Air Force aircraft have begun delivering relief supplies to the people on the coastlines of Southeast Asia and Eastern Africa. The area was devastated by a massive 9.0 magnitude earthquake and equally powerful tsunamis. The death toll from the disaster is expected to reach over 60,000 people. Defense Department officials have established a joint task force for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the region.

# Surprise inspection nets, weapons, alcohol, merchandise

By Staff Sgt. Ruth Curfman

506th AEG Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq — Officials here found unauthorized firearms and alcohol, military uniforms and other merchandise during a surprise inspection of areas inhabited by third-country workers and American contractors.

"The sweep was the first of its kind and, because of its success, has set the precedence for future rotations to follow," said Col. Greg Fick, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander.

Officials said the sweep broke up a theft ring at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service facility.

"We found about six weapons, including an AK-47 rifle, and about \$7,000 worth of stolen merchandise from AAFES," said Maj. Robert Baird, 506th AEG force protection officer.

The group found boxes full of CDs and DVDs, as well as footlockers full of clothing, electronics and various exchange property.

"We originally planned to inspect these areas to ensure the quality-of-life issues surrounding our contract workers and make sure chemicals were stored properly for safety reasons," Major Baird said. "These inspections are a good (random antiterrorism measure) and provide training for members of our force protection team who normally wouldn't be exposed to these types of operations."

The people involved also learned an important lesson.

"Nobody can afford to be complacent while they're here," said Staff Sgt. Kristi Varner, 506th



hoto by Staff Sgt. Adrian Cadiz

Airman Joshua Dennison inspects a sink for contraband during an inspection of areas inhabited by third-country workers and American contractors.

AEG force protection escort team leader. "We always have to be aware of what is going on around us because you never know what could happen."

Inspections help ensure the safety of the base and its people.

"The end result of this operation was very advantageous," Major Baird said. "We were able to take guns off the streets, 13 AAFES employees were fired, and we got the message across that we are very serious about force protection on this base."

This operation was the first of a two-phase operation and will continue as future rotations arrive.

### AROUND YOUR AIR FORCE

#### W-2s report combat pay

The 2004 W-2 tax forms for servicemembers will now report pay earned while serving in a combat zone tax exclusion area. This information helps them determine their eligibility for the earned income tax credit and child tax credit.

The combat pay information will be listed separately in Block 14 of the W-2 and will not be included with taxable wage information in Block 1.

Tax credit qualifications are based on gross income, which includes pay earned while in a combat zone. The addition of this information on 2004 W-2s will aid in determining whether a servicemember meets the Internal Revenue Service requirements for tax credit and which method of computing taxes is most advantageous to each situation.

The 2004 W-2s will be available mid-to late-January. Visit myPay online at <a href="https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx">https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx</a> to check availability.

For more information on these or other tax issues, people can contact their unit tax adviser or finance office.

Information is also available in the Armed Forces Tax Guide 2004 online at <a href="https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf">www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf</a> and on the IRS Web site at <a href="https://www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a>.

### AF's top lawyer gets Article 15

The commander of Air Education and Training Command completed nonjudicial punishment action against the Air Force's former top military lawyer Dec. 21.

Following a review of an Air Force inspector general investigation into allegations of wrongdoing, Gen. Donald G. Cook, AETC commander, punished Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Fiscus. General Fiscus received nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for conduct unbecoming an officer, fraternization, obstruction of justice and violating a lawful general regulation. As a result of these offenses, General Fiscus was reprimanded and given forfeitures of pay.

In addition, General Cook recommended to Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche that General Fiscus retire in a grade lower than major general. General Cook also recommended the investigation into these offenses be referred for appropriate action to Air Force officials charged with overseeing the Judge Advocate Professional Rules of Conduct and the designation and certification of Air Force lawyers.

Secretary Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper transferred this matter to General Cook to ensure the full range of administrative and disciplinary options available to a commander would be considered in determining an appropriate resolution of the case. This put the decision in the hands of a four-star general with 35 years of military service.

General Fiscus held the Air Force's top military legal position as the Judge Advocate General from Feb. 25, 2002, until Sept. 22, 2004, when he was relieved pending the resolution of the allegations against him.





By Senior Airman Pei-Chieh Buster

407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

As a military, government, or contracted employee of Tallil Air Base, you are responsible for protecting system resources within your control or possession.

As an authorized user on the local area network, you agree to certain guidelines that serve to protect your data, equipment, and the integrity of the overall network.

Your part in protecting Tallil system resources is known as "user level security." The people who use our Tallil LAN are the first line of defense against any network vulnerabilities.

These are some things users can do to protect our LAN:

## Don't open it - you don't know where it's been ...

Without a doubt, the Number One method by which viruses, trojans, worms and "backdoor" programs are propagated is via e-mail attachments, and this is particularly true with computers running Microsoft Windows.

More often than not, if you receive an attachment that you weren't expecting, or

is from someone you don't know (and don't know why they're sending it), chances are that the attachment carries some variety of "malware" just waiting for you to set it loose.

Most of these programs are run just by opening the attachment, particularly if the attachment has a filename extension of .exe, .pif, .scr or .vba.

One of the favorite tricks of virus writers, et al, is to hide the virus in an attachment that, when run, produces a clever or entertaining animation on the screen that people like to forward on to all their friends without thinking.

So, in short: if you get an email attachment, unless you feel very confident about what it is, where it came from, and why it was sent to you -- **DON'T OPEN IT!** 

At the very least, scan it with your antivirus software to see if anything is lurking inside.

# Make sure your Anti-Virus software is up to date.

The Air Force has implemented a service wide anti-virus program. All data processing equipment, including every server and client PC, must be protected from the threat of computer viruses.

Here at Tallil, users should double-click on the yellow/gold shield on the taskbar (lower right hand corner of the display) to check on the date of the anti-virus program on your workstation.

If a virus is detected on your system, you must immediately contact your workgroup manager.

Please remember, users should never change settings on their anti-virus program. People can contact their workgroup manager if changes are necessary.

## Don't leave a computer you're logged into unattended or unprotected.

Your workstation PC must be secured every time you leave your work area for any period of time.

Activating your screensaver or locking your workstation ensures unauthorized personnel won't use your PC.

It is mandatory that your password screensaver is activated and set to no more than five minutes.

If you will be away for an extended period of time (1 hour or more) you should log off the workstation. Finally, you should always log off your PC at the end of every workday.

# The Late Show comes to Tallil

David Letterman brings holiday entertainment to deployed troops











Photos by Tech. Sgt. Maria J. Bare

(Top) Late night talk show host David Letterman signs a T-shirt for a Soldier during the entertainer's visit to Tallil Air Base Dec. 24. (Far left) Paul Shaffer sings a special rendition of "White Christmas" as part of the show. (Center) Anna Jack demonstrates her skill with hula-hoops (Right) Mr. Letterman chats with the audience of more than 800 Soldiers, Airmen and Marines gathered for the Christmas Eve show. This was the third consecutive year David has spent the holiday season visiting deployed troops. (Bottom) llana, the Late Show Grinder Girl, makes sparks fly as she performs for the troops.

# 407th AEG Warrior of the Week **SSgt Deron Morgan**



Unit: 407th Expeditionary Medical Group Home unit: 3MDG/SGDM, Elmendorf AFB, Ak. Why other warriors say he's a warrior:

Staff Sgt. Deron Morgan has provided truly outstanding dental care support for AEF 1 & 2. A true professional who sets the example for others to follow, his positive can-do attitude quickly spread throughout the entire 407 Expeditionary Medical Group.

**Most memorable Air Force experience:** Becoming a NCO and Graduating from Dental Laboratory Technical School.



**KNOW WHAT THIS IS?** Each week, the "Tallil Times" staff takes a photo from around Tallil AB. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: tallil.times @tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil. with "Identify This" in the subject block. The winner receives a prize and gets their name printed in the Tallil Times. Last week no one correctly identified the photo in last week's newspaper, so here's the same image from a bit further away -- good luck!

## Wild Iraqi Safari

## **Green Toad**



Most of us associate toads with woodlands and marshes, but a number of frogs and toads live in desert environments such as Tallil. Still, we were surprised when we discovered a small pond with many young green toads, and at least one large female green toad.

Green toads have a wide distribution ranging from North Africa, through the Mediterranean, and west to Mongolia. Across its distribution, this tough toad lives in a variety of habitats.

A few principal adaptations permit the green toad to survive in difficult habitats. First, it can breed in a variety of water sources including polluted ones. The pond in which we spotted our toads resembled pea soup more than water. The second adaptation is the toad's ability to escape from drought or high temperatures by excavating burrows. The green toad also avoids the heat by being nocturnal. Only at night does the green toad come out to search for its diet of insects, earthworms and slugs. The green toad travels to water only to breed. At the breeding site, the male sits in the water and produces a mating call that sounds like a police whistle. The females lay 10,000-12,000 eggs, from which tadpoles hatch. The tadpoles take two to three months to mature.

**Did you Know?** The Australian water-holding frog survives in the desert by burying itself and emerging only when it rains. In its underground burrow, the frog secretes a mucus coating that hardens into a waterproof shell. The shell then protects the frog from dehydration as the frog waits for the next rain.

Column courtesy of John Ploch, Vector Control, KBR contractor and Lt. Col John Putnam, 407th Leishmaniasis Surveillance and Investigation Team.



#### *OUT AND ABOUT*



#### Worship services

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 445-2006.

#### Sunday

8 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. Traditional Protestant service 10 a.m. LDS service at the Army's Religious Activity Center 11 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass **12:30 p.m.** Air Force/Army Gospel service in the Big Top

6 p.m. Contemporary choir rehearsal 7 p.m. Contemporary worship service

#### Monday

**6:30 p.m.** Gospel service prayer time in the chapel resource trailer 6 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass **7 p.m.** Experiencing God Bible Study in the Chapel Annex 7:30 p.m. Gospel choir rehearsal in the Big Top

#### Tuesday

7 p.m. Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room 7:15 p.m. Christian Leadership Bible study 8 p.m. Christian Discipleship Study. Call Marine Staff Sgt. Ross Hrynewych at 459-0761 for details.

#### Wednesday

5 p.m. Catholic Choir rehearsal 6 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Protestant Choir rehearsal 8 p.m. Purpose Driven Life Study in the chapel annex

#### Thursday

6:30 p.m. Catholic choir rehearsal

7 p.m. Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room **7 p.m.** LDS study in the Army Religious Activity Center 7:45 p.m. Gospel service Bible study

#### Friday

11:45 a.m. Islamic prayer at the RAC, call 833-1154 for info 6 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Gospel choir

rehearsal

6 p.m. Vigil Mass

Contemporary choir rehearsal

# Saturday 7 p.m.

#### **ESVS Presents** Just for fun

**Tonight**, Tallil Idol 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Big Top

Saturday, New Year's Day Tournaments/College Bowl Frenzy

Sunday, Chess at 8 p.m.

Monday, Jenga at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Stick hockey at 4 p.m.



Wednesday, Spades, 8 p.m. Rummy at midnight

Thursday, Uno at 8 p.m.

January 7th, Combat Bingo at 7:30 p.m. in





Noon, Harry Potter 3 8 p.m., Sideways Midnight, Sideways

#### Saturday

Noon, Harry Potter 3 8 p.m., The Bourne Supremacy Midnight, The Bourne Supremacy

#### Sunday

Noon, Thunderbirds 8 p.m., Catwoman Midnight, Catwoman

## Monday

Noon, Sideways 8 p.m., Johnson Family Vacation Midnight, Johnson Family Vacation

### Tuesday

Noon, The Bourne Supremacy 8 p.m., Harry Potter 3 Midnight, Harry Potter 3

## Wednesday

Noon, Catwoman 8 p.m., Thunderbirds Midnight, Thunderbirds

## Thursday

Noon, Johnson Family Vacation 8 p.m., Sideways Midnight, Sideways

## January 7th

Noon, Harry Potter 3 8 p.m., The Bourne Supremacy Midnight, The Bourne Supremacy





Photo by Airman 1st Class Jeff Andrejcik

Three members of the championship 407th Expeditionary Communication Squadron's intramural dodgeball team take aim at their opponent during a match played during the season-ending tournament Wednesday night. The ECS team swept their way through the eight-team event to take home the coveted T-shirts marking them as the best group of dodgeball players on Tallil Air Base.

# Comm takes dodgeball championship

By Master Sgt. Don Perrien

407th AEG Public Affairs

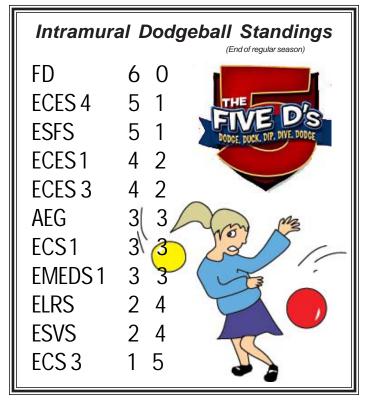
The 407th Expeditionary Communication Squadron took home the Tallil Air Base intramural dodgeball championship T-shirts after sweeping through the season-ending tournament Wednesday night at the Big Top.

In the final game of the season, the Comm troops took out the CE #1 team to earn the bragging rights as the best dodgeball-playing group on Tallil.

Eight teams faced off in the single elimination-tourney which featured new, larger balls than earlier games played in the league. The teams took to the new equipment quickly, and the ability to catch the new balls was credited in determining the base champion.

"Teamwork and the excellent play of Scott Schmidt made the difference for us," said James Hale, one of the members of the championship team. "He saved us multiple times throughout the night."







# Ring out the old year, and celebrate the new!

# ESVS 2005 NEW YEARS SCHEDULE



Plus College Bowl Pick Em and all the televised football you can imagine!

